U.S. Consulate General, Yekaterinburg

SECURITY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS:

Related to Events in Ukraine

March 3, 2014

The U.S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg informs U.S. citizens in Russia of the <u>Travel Warning</u> issued by the Department of State on February 28 warning U.S. citizens to defer all non-essential travel to Ukraine. U.S. citizens in Russia should be alert to the ongoing tensions in Ukraine and the potential for increased public demonstrations and anti-American actions in Russia.

The U.S. government has received no specific threat against U.S. citizens or U.S. interests in Russia. However, all U.S. citizens considering travel to Russia should evaluate their personal security situation in light of political tension and the possibility of violence or anti-U.S. actions directed against U.S. citizens or U.S. interests. Demonstrations related to the conflict may appear anywhere throughout Russia, at any time. These demonstrations may raise the possibility of confrontation and violence.

Please note the following guidance from the U.S. Department of State's <u>Country Specific</u>
<u>Information for the Russian Federation</u>: "U.S. citizens should avoid all public demonstrations, whether properly authorized by local officials or not, and avoid any large crowds and public gatherings that lack enhanced security measures."

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Russia enroll in the Department of State's **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you **do not** have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the <u>State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Russia</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>the "Traveler's Checklist"</u> on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. Consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for travel information at your fingertips.

The American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg assists U.S. citizens in Russia. We can help you with passport issuance and renewal, voter assistance, notarials,

and registering a child born abroad. We also provide emergency services for U.S. citizens in case of a disaster or in case of illness, arrest, death or destitution while in Russia.

Appointments are required for all non-emergency services; you can make an appointment by calling the ACS unit at 7 (343)379-3001. To contact us with questions, please write to consulyekat@state.gov or visit the consulyekat@state.gov or visit th